

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 A-01 H-02 CPR-01 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /049 W

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O R 102015Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7997

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0914

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, EK

SUBJ: INCIDENT IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REFS: A) STATE 58322 B) YAOUNDE 898 C) YAOUNDE 901

1. REF A CAME AS NO SURPRISE, AS REF B MUST HAVE SUGGESTED TO DEPARTMENT. THE SPEED WITH WHICH HUNCH OF IMMINENT PNG'ING WAS CONFIRMED SUGGESTS THAT EVEN IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF OPTION C RECOMMENDED IN REF B WOULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED GOAL OF TAKING INITIATIVE AWAY FROM MACIAS. RAPIDITY OF HIS ACTION ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT SANTIAGO ACTED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS ALL ALONG, THAT CORE OF DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL IN EG ON MARCH 5, AND THAT EG AUTHORITIES WERE TRYING THROUGHOUT OUR VISIT TO PROVOKE A MORE SOLID INCIDENT UPON WHICH TO BASE PNG ACTION, AN EFFORT WHICH FAILED DUE TO OUR CORRECT CONDUCT.

2. OPTIONS A AND B HAVE CLEARLY BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOW BREAK RELATIONS IN A MANNER CAREFULLY CALCULATED FOR OPTIMUM EFFECTS, NOT ONLY UPON EG - WHICH HAS NEVER MATTERED MUCH, AND MATTERS LESS NOW - BUT ALSO ON OTHER COUNTRIES IN AREA AND BEYOND. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF RUPTURE COULD EITHER FOCUS UPON CRUDE DOCUMENT HANDED TO ME BY SANTIAGO AS ILLUSTRATION OF PRIMITIVE AND PARANOID CHARACTER OF REGIME AND RULER AND ITS INABILITY TO OBSERVE MINIMUM STAND-
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ARDS OF CIVILIZED DIPLOMATIC INTERCOURSE; OR CONCENTRATE UPON

OTHER WELL-KNOWN QUALITIES OF MACIAS' RULE, INCLUDING HIS PERSECUTION AND KILLING OF NIGERIAN WORKERS, OF MEMBERS OF EG BUBI TRIBE, ETC.; OR BOTH. IN CASE WE STRESS SANTIAGO'S DOCUMENT, IN ANTICIPATION THAT SIMILAR REASONING WILL BE USED TO JUSTIFY PNG ACTION, DEPARTMENT MIGHT MENTION AMBASSADOR'S BACKGROUND, WHICH WILL MAKE CIA CHARGES APPEAR DOUBLY RIDICULOUS.

3. TO THE EXTENT DEPARTMENT DECIDES UPON BREAKING RELATIONS AND WISHES TO FOCUS UPON EVILS OF MACIAS REGIME, I RECOMMEND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON BEFORE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, AND SUGGEST THAT OUR AMBASSADORS IN LAGOS, LIBREVILLE, AND MADRID INFORM THEIR RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENTS. I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO INFORM OTHER AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN YAOUNDE AND ACCREDITED TO EG OF EG AND US ACTIONS. THEY WILL BE GREEN WITH ENVY.

4. SINCE SANTIAGO'S DOCUMENT (REF C) MENTIONS "FATAL BLOW TO US IMPERIALISM" OF MPLA VICTORY IN ANGOLA, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO USE IT TO SHOW DOMESTIC CRITICS OF US ANGOLA POLICY THAT OUR INABILITY TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ADMINISTRATION POLICY HAS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EVEN PETTY DICTATOR LIKE MACIAS, WHO IS THOROUGHLY DISCREDITED AMONG AFRICAN PEERS, TO BLOW ANTI-AMERICAN HORN, JOINING CACAPHONY OF OTHER MORE OR LESS RATIONAL CRITICS. SIMILARLY, EXCESS PUBLICITY GIVEN TO CIA ACTIVITIES ENCOURAGES UNSPEAKABLE TYPES TO PRETEND TO DETECT ITS AGENTS EVEN IN HARMLESS FELLOWS LIKE CONSUL MITHOEFER AND YOUR LOYAL SERVANT.
SPIRO

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